



FORMATION AND ANIMATION ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE *MORNESE* FMA PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION IN THE SIX YEARS 2016-2021

1. Formation and accompaniment as a first commitment

As a World Delegate, my first commitment in the Association is to take care of the formative processes indicated in the Sector Planning for the Salesian Family and the specific paths for the FMA Past Pupils Association. To carry out this task I kept in mind:

- the knowledge of the 2015 Statute and the deep study of the spirituality of the Past Pupil, through the Formation Units sent to the Delegates and Federation Presidents every two months and published in the Union Magazine for all the associates;
- the updating of the Delegates and Presidents of the Federation through some topical documents at the charismatic, ecclesial, and civil levels;
- ongoing sharing with the Delegates and Presidents of the Federations, using the available means of communication;
- the animation of Federations and Unions through on-site visits as a privileged moment of formation, knowledge, and enhancement of the different realities, and as a space for growth in the sense of belonging. In the six-year period, 45 Federations and 115 Unions were visited.

In the time of the pandemic, virtual meetings have multiplied at all levels. To date, I have participated in 246 meetings on different online platforms.

- attention to rediscovering the value of the Salesian Family as an expression of the Salesian charism and a way to the future. In this regard, I participated in and encouraged the participation of Past Pupils in the **Salesian Family Spirituality Days** every year in January. As a Delegate, I am a member of the Preparation Team for these Days and annually represent the Association in the **World Council of the Salesian Family**.

Also as Delegate and member of the Confederal Council I participated:

- in the **Confederal Council**: 18 times in presence at the Confederation headquarters - via Gregorio VII - in Rome and 16 times online;
- in the **Ethics Committee**, which worked for the conclusion of the Project: *A roof, a heart of the 'Mother Luisa Vaschetti Holiday House'*;
- in the 18 **Directive Councils** of *Not One Less ONLUS* and in the 4 Assemblies;
- in the *Escuela de Formación de Delegados* of the Salesian Family of Spain and Portugal, in 2016 and 2019;

- at the presentation of the Association to the New Provincials:
 - o 18 July 2016
 - o 18 July 2017
 - o 20 July 2019
 - o 21 January 2020
 - o 21 January 2021
- in formative meetings - with the **Interprovincial Conferences** and with the Sector for the Salesian Family, entitled: *Salesian Family: Dream, Resource, Challenge*, to promote a shared mission with the laity, especially with the members of the Salesian Family, according to the following calendar and places:
 - o CIB (Interprovincial Conference of Brazil) at San Paolo, from 24 to 27 March 2017;
 - o CICSAL (Interprovincial Conference of Cono South of Latin America) at Montevideo, from 5 to 7 April 2017;
 - o CII (Interprovincial Conference of Italy) at Rome, from 12 to 14 May 2017;
 - o NAC (Interprovincial Conference of North America) at San Antonio, Texas, from 3 to 5 October 2017;
 - o CIEM (Interprovincial Conference of Europe and the Middle East) at Varsavia, in Poland, from 9 to 12 November 2017;
 - o CIAO (Interprovincial Conference of East Asia) at Manilla, Philippines, from 5 to 7 October 2018;
 - o CIMAC (Interprovincial Conference of Mexico, Antilles and Central America) at Monterrey, Mexico from 4 to 8 March 2019;
 - o CIAM (Interprovincial Conference of Africa-Madagascar) at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 24 March 2019;
 - o CINAB (Interprovincial Conference of the Bolivian Countries) at Medellin, Colombia, from 2 to 5 May 2019;
 - o CIEP (Interprovincial Conference of Spain and Portugal) at Fatima, Portugal, from 22 to 24 November 2019;
- in the meetings of the Salesian Family Sector with the Interprovincial Conferences, to present the methodological guide concerning the formation stages of the young candidates of our Institute. The meetings took place from 1 to 7 July 2021.
- in the editorial team of the Union Magazine and in the process of giving a new layout and graphics to the Magazine, as a formation and information tool for the Association.
- in the meetings for the updating of the Structure of the World Confederation:
 - o at the level of Italy, as a member of the Technical Committee to consider the possibility of applying the Law Decree 117/2017 "Third Sector Code";
 - o at the global level, in the redesign of the World Confederation through the new Statute 2021:

- in the proposal to appoint a 'lay contact person' to assist the Delegate in the animation and accompaniment of the Federation and/or Unions;
- in the Extraordinary Assembly of 28 March 2021;
- in the Webinar per la celebrazione del Centenario della Rivista 'Unione'.

1. Continental Congresses of the Association

The Continental Congresses were: a privileged space for dialogue with the World Confederation; an opportunity for formation, encounter, and growth in the sense of belonging, as well as intergenerational, intercultural, interreligious dialogue; moments of common commitment. About 935 people took part in these events, including Past Pupils and Delegates. In addition to participation, I was involved in the preparation of each event with the Federation Councils and the Past Pupils of every continent.

The following Congresses were held during the six-year period:

In Africa: I African Congress: *Being a Past Pupil in the family, in the Church, and in society*. Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo) March 9-13 2017.

In America: IV American Congress: *New Technologies. Tools at the service of evangelization and the Salesian charism*, in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) on 1-5 November 2018.

In Asia: II Asian Congress: *Open mind, attentive listening for a future of hope*, in Sam Phran (Thailand) 09-13 October 2019.

In Europe: European guidelines of commitment: *Mercy, door of welcome*, in Rome (Italy), on 27-30 October 2016; European commitment guidelines: *Pilgrims of our time ... in the footsteps of Don Bosco*, in Barcelona (Spain), April 4-7 2019.

In some countries and Federations, National Congresses are periodically organized according to the needs of the places and the various formation processes:

2. National Congresses

As a delegate, I participated in the preparation and implementation of some National Congresses.

In 2016:

- VIII FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Colombia, 12 August.
- XII FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Brazil, 24 October.

In 2017:

- FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Spain and Portugal, 21-22 October.

In 2018

- FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Spain and Portugal, 13-15 April.
- 1st National FMA Past Pupils Congress of Italy, in Assisi, 4-6 May.

In 2019

- XIV FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Brazil, 24-27 October.

In 2021

- IX FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Colombia, May 28-30.
- XV FMA Past Pupils National Congress of Brazil, 8-11 July.

3. *Visits*

In recent years I have had the opportunity to visit the following Federations:

In 2016

- Monferrina Federation of Our Lady of Grace, at the "Our Lady of Grace" Institute in Nizza Monferrato, Italy.
- Southern Federation of Sister Teresa Valesè Pantellini, in Carosino, Taranto, Italy.
- Sicula Federation of Saint Joseph, at the "Mary Help of Christians" Institute in Catania, Italy.
- Sicula Mother Morano Federation, at "Mother Mazzarello" House in Palermo, Italy.
- Vercelli Federation of St. Mary Mazzarello, at "Sacred Heart" Institute in Vercelli, Italy.

In 2017

- Roman Federation of St. Cecilia, at the "Mary Help of Christians" Institute in via Marghera, Rome.
- São Paulo Federation, Brazil, in São Paulo (BSP).
- Mother Mazzarello Federation, in Belo Horizonte. Brazil. (BBH).
- Mary Help of Christians Federation (CMA), in Medellin, Colombia.

In 2018

- Southern Federation of Our Lady of Good Counsel (IMR), in Albania.
- Federations of Mary Help of Christians Province of Spain (SPA).
- Federation of the Sacred Heart of Ecuador (ECU). Unions: Mother Mazzarello in Quito; Mother Mazzarello of Guayaquil; Mary Help of Christians in Manta; Mary Help of Christians in Riobamba; St. Joseph Villa in Quito.
- Federation of Saint Rose of Lima of "St. Rosa da Lima" Province (PER). Unions: Mary Help of Christians in Barrios Altos; Mary Help of Christians in Callao; Mary Help of Christians in Chosica.
- Federations Mary Help of Christians and St. Mary Dominica Mazzarello of Colombia, in Medellin.
- St. Joseph Antillan Federation, at Mary Help of Christians Provincial House in Santo Domingo. Unions: Our Lady of Altagracia in Jarabacoa; Mary Help of Christians in Moca; Mary Immaculate in Santo Domingo; Blessed Mother Morano in Santiago de los Caballeros.
- Venetian Federations Maria Regina di Conegliano and Holy Angels di Padova, in Italy.

In 2019

- Federation of Our Lady of Guadalupe of Mexico in Mexico City.

- Federation of Mother of the Church of Mexico at Monterrey.
- Federation of St. John Bosco (MOZ). Unions: Mary Help of Christians in Namaacha; St. Joseph in Lhanguene; Saint Francis in Infulene, Maputo.
- Federation of St. Francis de Sales in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Unions: Almagro, La Boca, Garay, La Plata in Buenos Aires; Avellaneda; Bernal; Ensenada; Mar del Plata; Mary Help of Christians and Mother Mazzarello in Morón; Río Gallegos; Río Grande and Soler.
- Federation of St. Francis Xavier Federation in Bahía Blanca, Argentina (ABB). Unions: Junín de los Andes, Mary Help of Christians, Marina Coppa, Rawson and Sacred Heart; Comodoro Rivadavia, General Conesa, Patagones, and Viedma.
- Federation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Córdoba, Argentina (ARO). Unions: Curuzú Cuatiá; Mendoza; Resistencia Chiacó; Rodeo of the Middle; Rosary; San Juan; San Luis; San Miguel de Tucuman.
- Federation of St. Raphael Archangel in Asunción, Paraguay (PAR). Unions: Mary Help of Christians, Amanecer Mornesino of Asunción, Sister Eusebia Palomino, Mary Help of Christians of Concepción, Pedro Juan Caballero, Puerto Casado, Mother Mazzarello of Kilometro 16, Mary Help of Christians of Kilometro 20, Mary Help of Christians of Villarrica, Mary Help of Christians of Ciudad del Este, President Franco and Mary Help of Christians of Villeta.
- Federation of Sarda, in Italy.
- Federation of Mary Our Help in Cambodia-Myanmar (CMY). Unions: Mary Help of Christians; St. John Bosco and Blessed Laura Vicuña in Phnom Penh; Santa Mary Domenica Mazzarello in Battambang; St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello; Blessed Laura Vicuña and Blessed Maria Romero Meneses in Mandalay.
- Federation of Our Lady of Chiquinquirá and Our Lady of the Snows in Colombia in Bogotá.

In 2020:

- Federation of Our Lady of the Angels in South Central America: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama (CAR).
- Federation of St. Gabriel Archangel, Chile.
- Federation of Mary Immaculate, United States, Texas.

4. *Virtual Meetings*

Due to the pandemic, online meetings multiplied exponentially in 2020 and 2021 with: Delegates of the Federation, Delegates of Unions; Federation Presidents and Delegates; Federation Councils; Provincials; Animators; Past pupils; young people of the Salesian Youth Movement, and members of the Salesian Family. These meetings took place at the continental, interprovincial, provincial or personal level, according to the needs or requests of the provinces, federations or individuals.

5. Presence of the Past Pupils Association at the world level

Today it is essential to network in any context. Cooperation and interdependence are essential elements to face common challenges in the future. Active and proactive participation in networking initiatives with the local Church and with the territory multiplies the possibilities and strengthens the inclusion of all, especially the most vulnerable and excluded.

With this awareness and for networking, I represented the Association in some meetings with world organizations:

- In October 2017: participation in the XV World Congress, for the 50th anniversary of the foundation of OMAEC [World Organization of Past Pupils / and of Catholic Teaching].
- Since 2016, with some Past Pupils, participation in the Assembly of the AMCG (Association of General Curie Members) - Charismatic Families, which takes place twice a year, also as a member of the Executive Committee of the AMCG Association.

6. Challenges for the future

After this long journey, and on the basis of the knowledge acquired about the Association, I consider these to be challenges for the future:

- stimulate the sense of belonging to the Association, through communication and synergy between the members, in the Unions, Federations, and worldwide;
- know and study the Identity Document, the new Statute, and the Identity Card of the Salesian Family;
- develop a formation plan for the associates as well as for the directors and for the lay contact person;
- give the Association a clearer imprint of solidarity and social commitment, in fidelity to its original characteristic;
- present the Association as an opportunity - even for those who belong to other religions or are non-believers - to live the Mornese Salesian charism as a space for growth, accompaniment, friendship, service to families and the most needy;
- give visibility to the Association in educational communities, social networks, etc.
- Create links between youth ministry, youth groups and the Association.

I conclude with heartfelt gratitude:

- THANK YOU Mother Yvonne, because in entrusting me with this service of accompaniment of the FMA Past Pupils Association, you placed so much trust in me and with this gift allowed me to broaden my gaze on the Salesian charism in Mornese and on the whole world. I am also grateful to you for your stimulus and your clear, programmatic, and reassuring word.
- THANK YOU Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, General Councilor for the Salesian Family, for her fraternal and wise accompaniment; for her closeness and encouragement at every moment that made it possible to walk together, both in good times and in the effort of seeking and giving a new face to the Association as a 'lay group' entrusted to us. A heartfelt thanks for

her authority and her presence, not only as a General Councilor for the Salesian Family, but as a 'teacher' and a true sister

- THANK YOU to the General Councilors and Provincials who have always been interested and willing to collaborate and respond when we needed them regarding the Association.
- THANK YOU to the Federation Delegates, with whom I had constant communication that allowed us to learn and understand our role of charismatic animation, the importance of working together, and the richness of the FMA Past Pupils Association in our mission today.
- THANK YOU to Maria Maghini and to each of the Confederal Councilors for the opportunity we lived together to broaden our gaze on the dynamism of the Confederation in different cultures. Thank you also for the contribution that each Councilor has been able to offer in the animation service that has been entrusted to her.
- THANK YOU to many other people: secretaries, competent consultants and friends who made possible the realization of the new face for this group of the Salesian Family. With their work, everyone has contributed to its current 'identity', which most highlights its service and mission for the good of the whole family, of society and above all of the Kingdom of God.
- THANK YOU to the Past Pupils around the world for being the precious gift to the Institute that Our Lady gave us by taking you to our homes. In a particular way, my thanks go to the Presidents of all continents and to all the Past Pupils whom I have had the joy of knowing personally in my visits; to those that I have heard or read in their communications or seen on online platforms; to all those who remain hidden and unknown in many parts of our world, but who love us and feel equally a living part of our family. Thanks to the many people who follow us and accompany us with their prayers and their suffering; to those who believe in the Association, whether they are part of it or who wish to join for a better future, convinced that, as Pope Francis says: *No one builds the future in isolation.*
- And I cannot conclude without referring my THANKS to so many Past Pupils and Delegates who preceded us in the Father's house, especially in this time of pandemic, and who now live the true 'communion' desired by Fr. Rinaldi from the beginning of Association. Their witness pushes us more and more to live a social fraternity capable of attracting those young people who seek to commit themselves to the service of the most fragile of society.
- With all of you, I collect and express my GRATITUDE to the Lord and Our Lady who have called me and have walked beside me in this rich experience of life and faith.

Sour Gabriela Patiño O.
Delegate Mondiale Exallieve/I FMA